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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: EXTENSION OF KOSOVO
MISSION MANDATE

REF: KAUFMAN 12/20/2007 EMAIL

[¶1.](#) Post is instructed to continue to seek the longest mandate extension possible for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, but should it become necessary, in order to prevent closure of the mission on December 31, 2007, Post is authorized to join consensus on a decision extending the mission on a month-to-month basis, substantively along the lines of the text at paragraph 2. Post is authorized to align itself with the EU interpretive statement (ref) and should also make the interpretive statement at paragraph 3 below.

[¶2.](#) Begin text of draft decision:

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 765 of 14 December 2006, by which the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo was extended until 31 December 2007,

Decides:

[¶1.](#) To extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo until 31 January 2008.

[¶2.](#) At the end of this period, and at the end of each month afterwards, the mandate will be extended with another month except if a participating State objects in writing to the Chairman of the Permanent Council.

[¶3.](#) Should the mandate end, the Mission will start the procedure for closing down without delay.

[¶4.](#) At the same time, negotiations will start on the terms of a possible further engagement of the OSCE in Kosovo.

End text of draft decision.

[¶3.](#) Being Text of U.S. interpretive statement.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States agrees fully with the EU statement. Like the EU, we believe OMIK's work has been essential to a peaceful and democratic Kosovo. We would like in particular to single out OMIK's invaluable work with minority ethnic groups.

We regret that the actions of the two participating states that insisted on this month-to-month mandate renewal endanger the entity that has been the most trusted interlocutor and forceful advocate for the minority populations in Kosovo. These OMIK functions have been indispensable and will have to be continued regardless of Kosovo's final status.

The OSCE also has a responsibility to OMIK's employees, and the United States is disappointed that this month-to-month extension decision continues the uncertainty that has

threatened the job stability of over 700 local employees.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

RICE